



RICHARD F. ALLEN
COMMISSIONER

Re-Entry Update

ADOC Goals for Prisoner Reentry

-  Decrease the overall prison recidivism rates and overcrowding
-  Promote public safety for the general community
-  Reunite parents and children
-  Decrease public health and social disparities within the offender populations
-  Offer referral linkages to inmates and ex-offenders transitioning back into the community

Congratulations!

In June and July, the following institutions implemented the start up of Reentry and Pre Release Services:

Fountain J.O. Davis Frank Lee

Kilby Tutwiler Easterling

Ventress Bullock County Draper

Red Eagle Limestone Elmore

St. Clair Bibb County Donaldson

Holman Hamilton A&I Staton

Montgomery Women's Facility



AUGUST 2008

*Consumer to Consumer
So you are going home!
Congratulations.*

Mike McLemore, President-Alabama Voices for Recovery
Johann Caris, President-FORMLL

Addiction
Is A
Disease

WWW.FORMLL.ORG

Advocacy has often been asked how we can help someone with a substance abuse problem who is returning home after incarceration. If drugs or alcohol abuse put you in prison, without treatment you are likely to return. Don't let that happen. There is help.

There are many non-certified programs that claim to offer substance abuse treatment but provide little or none. The advocacy office receives, almost on a daily basis, complaints of non-certified programs taking advantage of and violating the rights of consumers who attend these programs.

When looking for substance abuse treatment the most important thing is to make sure the substance abuse treatment program is certified by the Department of Mental Health, Substance Abuse Services Division. For a list of all certified substance abuse treatment provider in Alabama visit www.formll.org or call the advocacy office at 256-796-1449.

For more information on community programs certified by the Alabama Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation, please see the Institutional Reentry Designee.



News of CPR Network Is Spreading -- by Vickie Locke

Back in March 2008, there was a small group of about 40 people crowded in a small conference room at the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs. They were leaning forward listening to Governor Bob Riley share his vision for the Community Partnership for Recovery and Reentry--CPR Network. He spoke of engaging the community to provide transition support to individuals leaving our correctional and court systems to return to our communities. The Governor indicated the need to have a centralized point of contact in each county to provide assistance to those who needed help rebuilding their lives after incarceration or court mandated action.

Word about the CPR Network began to spread.

Then in May 2008, over 750 ministry and community leaders sat in a large exhibit hall at Embassy Suites in Montgomery to hear Governor Riley once again challenge churches, community group, businesses, educational institutions and individuals to make a difference in the lives of people leaving our correctional systems. They were challenged to start, continue or intensify their efforts to make a difference in the life of at least one person.

Word about the CPR Network spread even more.

The 67 counties of Alabama were divided into eight CPR Network Regions. From June through July, each a session was held in each of the region to share the Governor's vision with the local people in that region. About 400 people attended these regional meetings. Others, who heard about these information sessions but could not attend, called for more information. They all demonstrated a keen interested in learning more about the services they could provide. The CPR Network website was launched in June. This website is designed as a place where churches and other groups or individuals who have support services to offer can connect with those who need services or resources.

Words we use in reentry

At the numerous seminars, discussions, and panels I attend in the United States concerning prisoner re-entry I encounter more and more well-meaning people who sincerely want to help individuals returning home from a period of incarceration (see "Man of Conviction," May). However, many of these people are using language that is hurtful and counterproductive to the re-entry cause. I realize their pejorative words are not intended to set the movement back, but they are—out of ignorance—perpetuating stereotypes with their words nonetheless.

Negative terms like "ex-cons" and "ex-felons" are buzzwords the media use to conjure up images of persons who are still a danger to society and therefore should be closely watched and/or are not worthy of our trust. It is much easier to treat people unfairly, deny them employment, and make their return from a period of incarceration all the more difficult if, in the public mind, these individuals deserve such treatment.

Years ago the homeless used to be called "bums," "hobos," and "vagrants," but these terms are no longer acceptable when referring to this population. In a similar fashion individuals suffering from mental illnesses were once called "lunatics," but when society came to the conclusion that we should treat these individuals with respect, the first step in the process was to change the language.

A similar change must occur in this field if we are serious about instituting real solutions to a growing national problem. The accepted term in prisoner re-entry today is "formerly incarcerated persons," and the faster we can make the linguistic shift, the faster this pressing problem will be solved.

—Charles See has been the executive director of Lutheran Metro Ministry's Cleveland Community Re-entry program—the oldest re-entry program in the United States—for thirty-one years.

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EDUCATE YOURSELF
PROTECT YOURSELF

Inside the Prison System

A CONVERSATION WITH EARVIN "MAGIC" JOHNSON

Please see your Institutional Reentry Designee to find out when this DVD will be shown.



News of CPR Network is Spreading continued from page 1

These resources can range from food, clothing, transitional houses, mentoring services, counseling, job listings, training and other critical services. The CPR Network website now has over 800 members who have developed almost 200 partnerships and the website averages over 500 page views per day. Word is spreading to the business community.

Businesses are interested in finding out how they can participate in this effort. Some businesses have indicated an interest in hiring previously incarcerated persons. They are willing to engage with us to determine how best to conduct hiring and training for selected individuals. To help answer the questions businesses may have, the CPR Network will conduct a CPR Business Summit in mid-to late September. The expected result will be a clear and effective way to identify employment and training opportunities for previously incarcerated persons.



We know the first step toward really engaging the community is to share information and to get their feedback and support. With that in mind, the CPR Network continues its mission to reach every community group and individual with an interest in this initiative. The CPR Network is spreading---just the way we intended. Watch this spot for more information on our progress.



Alabama Department of Human Resources

DHR's Family Resources' Programs for Formerly Incarcerated Persons Seeking Assistance

In support of the Department of Corrections Reentry efforts, the Department of Human Resources has produced a comprehensive video to provide information on services available to formerly incarcerated persons who are transitioning back to the community. The video offers information on the following services:

-  Child Care Subsidy Programs
-  Child Support Services
-  Food Assistance Programs
-  Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)
-  Family Assistance

For more information on these services and to view the "DHR Reentry Video" or for more information about Termination of Parental Rights (written handout), please contact your Institutional Reentry Designee.

Contact information for the 67 county DHR offices can also be obtained from the Reentry Designee.

